



Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

109th Assembly District

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December 2023

Happy Holidays to you and your families! We're looking ahead to the 2024 legislative session and building on our progress made in this year's legislative session. This includes addressing New York's housing crisis, the transcendent threat of our time — climate change, responding to regressive Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action and student debt relief, and making New York more affordable. Since the end of the 2023 session in June, the Governor has signed pieces of legislation I sponsored into law, and I've also introduced new bills during that time.

I look forward to building upon the wins and investments we made locally and statewide to continue uplifting New Yorkers and their families by prioritizing and supporting our small businesses, workers, and families. As Chair of the Assembly's Higher Education Committee, I am committed to securing more aid for our SUNY and CUNY systems, independent colleges, and building on the record funding we were able to secure last year. Our SUNY and CUNY campuses are cornerstones of our local economies, and we must reverse years of disinvestment in our public higher education institutions to maintain their nation-leading and in some cases, world-class status. Like many of you, I am dismayed about the closure of The College of Saint Rose and the impact this will have on our community. I will continue to work with my partners in government and higher education leaders to minimize the impact to students, faculty, and our neighborhoods.

This Fall, we were also able to secure a host of legislative grants and highlighted new historic businesses in the 109th District. Ongoing infrastructure projects like the \$5 million feasibility study we secured for reimagining I-787, and the \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Labs on Harriman Campus stand to transform the future of our Capital Region, if we can leverage the transformative nature of these initiatives.

Finally, please make sure to complete the enclosed [2024 Constituent Survey](#) either online or by requesting a paper copy. Your perspective on the complex issues facing our state helps inform my work and helps prioritize what matters most to our constituency. I am honored to represent each of you in the New York State Assembly. During this time of turmoil across the globe, I wish each of you and your families peaceful Holidays, peace in our community and ultimately, throughout the world.



Sign up for our weekly email-blasts by visiting: nyassembly.gov/fahy



2024 Constituent Survey

Please take the brief 3-to-5-minute survey at the link below to provide your feedback. Your personal information is confidential and will not be shared. You must also be a constituent of the 109th Assembly District to participate.

NOTE: If you would like a paper copy of the survey mailed to you, please contact my office at fahyp@nyassembly.gov or (518) 455-4178.

To access the survey, please visit bit.ly/fahysurvey24 or Google: [Patricia Fahy survey](#).



Our Bills That Have Been Signed into Law

As we look ahead to next year's legislative session, there's more work to be done to support New Yorkers and their families. This year, several of my bills were signed by the Governor, and are now law.

[Disclosing Insurance Information on Pipeline Projects — A3946/S3365](#)

Communities across New York act as stewards of wetlands and other fragile ecosystems and are on the frontline of protecting these areas from the ravages of climate change. This legislation requires the disclosure of liability insurance information that will help inform communities across the state as they weigh the potential risks of approving projects that expand our fossil fuel infrastructure and gas delivery system. This is critical right-to-know legislation for local governments and communities grappling with these projects, and I thank Senator Harckham for his partnership on protecting New York's natural resources and communities from potential harm and pollution.

[Albany School Zone Speed Camera Program — A7043A/S6802A](#)

Municipalities around the country have successfully implemented speed camera programs in school zones that help to protect students, reduce crashes, and improve safety. According to statistics obtained from APD, between 2018-2022, there were a shocking 1,765 reported speeding incidents and 11,283 reported vehicular accidents in school zones in the City of Albany, with 2,109 injuries resulting from the crashes and 11 deaths resulting from the crashes.

We know that these deterrents work — in New York City, speeding at fixed speed camera locations dropped, on average, by 73 percent. This law, also sponsored in the Senate by Senator Neil Breslin, which enables the City of Albany to implement their own version of a limited school speed zone camera program will help to reduce the number of crashes, increase awareness of the danger of speeding in school zones, and ultimately save lives.

[180-Day Temporary Nurse Licensure Fix — A6697B/S7492](#)

Maintaining a robust and stable healthcare workforce is the cornerstone of providing quality care to all New Yorkers. Unfortunately, healthcare workforce challenges that have long existed were exacerbated and accelerated by the pandemic. With Executive Order 4 having expired, hospitals, continuing care, and other healthcare providers in New York are increasingly desperate for staffing solutions to keep pace with the healthcare demands of their communities. This law allows certain healthcare workers who provided services in the state under E.O. 4 prior to May 22, 2023, to apply to SED for temporary authorization to be able to practice, pending a determination on licensure to address shortages in our healthcare system.

TAP's 50-year Anniversary: At a joint legislative hearing conducted by the Assembly Higher Education Committee and Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Subcommittee, we discussed ways to expand and enhance TAP to cover more students and boost enrollment. This will be a top priority of mine in next year's budget.



It was great to visit Girl Scouts at Guilderland Elementary School and answer their questions about state government and what's happening in our community!

Looking Forward to 2024's Legislative Session

Below are pieces of legislation that I have newly introduced or continue to sponsor and prioritize as we look ahead to the 2024 legislation session. For a full list of legislation I sponsor, you can always visit nyassembly.gov/fahy.

Greenway Trails for a Green Future Bill Package

Together, these bills are poised to enhance trail user safety, create more funding streams for trail maintenance, and encourage greenway trail development across New York State. The package will functionally grow New York's outdoor recreation and tourism industry, leveraging and building on nation-leading achievements like the 750-mile Empire State Trail and Statewide Greenway Trails Plan. Bills in the package include:

- creating a right of way for all trail users in crosswalks (A8272)
- requiring Empire State Trail detour signage and notification (A8274)
- encouraging development of multi-use trails along New York's vast utility line system (A8311)
- a CHIPS Funding Formula Update to include bike line and greenway trail mileage and maintenance (A8273)
- improved bicycle and pedestrian access on bridges (A8300),
- creating and requiring uniform greenway trail design standards (A8301),
- clarifying the Recreational Use Statute, which is sponsored by Senator Harekham and Assemblymember Barrett (A6004)

The New York State Department of Veterans' Services has experienced Veterans' Services Benefit Advisors ready to help complete applications, obtain necessary documentation, file claims for veterans' benefits, and more. To schedule an appointment with a Veterans' Services Benefit Advisor, visit veterans.ny.gov

Regulating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Media Publications — A8158

My proposed legislation seeks to ensure transparency and accountability in the creation of content generated by AI, including articles, periodicals, photographs, videos, and other visual media published in print and digital publications. This technology creates content under varying circumstances without significant human oversight, learns from experience, and improves its performance when exposed to data sets. Specifically, this legislation requires every newspaper, magazine, or other periodically printed or electronically published media available in New York to conspicuously imprint on the top of the page or webpage when content was wholly or partially composed or authored using generative AI, or other information communication technology.



I joined Guilderland Central School District and others to highlight the new sidewalk, funding for which I helped secure through a capital grant, that connects Pine Bush Elementary with the northern part of the Town of Guilderland.

Memorializing Father Peter Young's Legacy — A8160

The bill renames a New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) workforce development and fellowship program, announced in the summer of 2023, for students pursuing careers as addiction treatment professionals, as the 'NYS Father Peter G. Young

Memorializing
Father Peter G. Young

New legislation creates the:
**NYS Father Peter G. Young
Memorial Addiction Professionals
Scholarship Program**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
PATRICIA A. FAHY
109th Assembly District
Albany, Guilderland,
New Scotland

Photo courtesy of the Times Union

Memorial Addiction Professionals Scholarship Program'.

This scholarship will help fill critical gaps in the addiction care workforce by growing the next generation of professionals serving those whose lives have been impacted by addiction. Father Peter G. Young of Albany's South End recognized the importance of rehabilitation as the most effective solution in addiction treatment versus the more punitive methods preferred by the public health authorities of his time. In 1959, he founded PYHIT, which focused on helping individuals struggling with addiction access to what Young called the "three-legged stool": addiction treatment, housing, and a job.



Continuing my statewide SUNY and CUNY tour, I visited SUNY Plattsburgh on their 'IBAC' day, which introduces 8th graders to majors they can pursue in college and more programs offered at their local SUNY school!

Regulating the Use of Unauthorized Drones Over Schools and Critical Infrastructure — A8176

The legislation prohibits operating an unmanned aircraft over school grounds or critical infrastructure under 400 feet when done intentionally or knowingly and when operated without the express consent of the school administrator or designee, or the entity responsible for critical infrastructure. Additionally, the legislation, sponsored by Senator Neil Breslin in the Senate, prohibits drones from contacting any person or causing a disturbance that interferes with school or critical infrastructure activities. This legislation is in response to complaints from community members and school administrators over reports an unauthorized drone was being flown over Slingerlands Elementary School and Eagle Elementary School, announced in an Oct. 13 letter to the school community from BCSD administrators. Currently, there are no state laws, rules, or regulations in New York surrounding drone operation or use over schools or critical infrastructure, defined in the bill as electrical power generation or delivery systems, refineries, chemical manufacturing facilities, pipelines, storage facilities, and drinking water treatment plants.

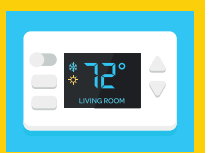


Introducing our legislation regulating the use of drones at Bethlehem Central School District's Eagle Elementary School alongside Sheriff Apple and more.

A Feasibility Study to Reimagine the Harriman Office Campus — A5888/S6457

The \$1.7 billion investment to create a new state-of-the-art public health laboratory at the Harriman Campus has the potential to serve as the key spark in leveraging more science and research investment in the area and bring about the creation of a Capital Region research triangle, one that is located within a transformed eastern Harriman Campus and fully integrated with the City of Albany. Thus, in order to fully realize the potential of this investment, there is a need that an updated traffic and

If you need help paying your heating bills, New York's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) may be able to help. Learn more and see if you're eligible: otda.ny.gov/programs/heap



planning study be commissioned to help transform the Eastern end of the Harriman Campus to help better connect and integrate the campus and the overall project into the City of Albany, while gaining additional acreage for mixed-use development, green space, and multi-modal transportation.



I was proud to visit CUNY's LaGuardia Community College as part of my statewide tour across New York State's higher education institutions, where it was great to see students from all backgrounds working towards their dream of achieving a higher education.

The International Debt Reduction Act — A2970/S4747

More than half (52%) of the world's privately held sovereign debt is governed by NYS law. Oftentimes, a small group of hedge funds buy the debts of countries in crisis for pennies on the dollar, and force collection



I welcomed students from Albany's Liberty Partnership Program this summer to the Assembly Chamber, and was happy to answer many of their questions about state government and the State Capitol!

in full when a country is struggling most, further hamstringing their ability to provide basic public health and safety services. New York courts set the terms for how this debt may be contracted, which are sometimes abused by certain creditors to hamper restructuring negotiations that



With Dr. Brenda Robinson and Albany City Councilmember Jahmel Robinson at National Night Out this past summer in the community!

benefit the stability of developing countries, pension funds, retirement plans, and American consumers. This bill ensures private creditors are given comparable treatment to public creditors and ends predatory practices some take advantage of. When sovereign debt crises occur, they reverberate throughout the global economy, driving up the prices of consumer goods, devaluing retirement plans, and threatening the investments of legitimate creditors, which are largely New York-based.

The Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act — A4592/S2016

This legislation would align the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) goals with New York's climate mandates set forth under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), passed in 2019. Additionally, this legislation would end the more than \$200 million New Yorkers spend every year through their utility bills to help subsidize new gas infrastructure, otherwise known as the '100-foot-rule'. If we're going to reduce our building sector's carbon emissions, which account for more than 1/3 of New York's total emissions, we should seek to ensure we are not placing the cost burden on New Yorkers and middle-class households.



The nation's longest-running and most-widely known Irish-American newspaper, the Irish Echo, named me as one of their Community Champions this year. As a first generation Irish-American, I was humbled to receive this award and it was great to see Attorney General Letitia James and former Assemblymember Michael Cusick as well!

Expanding NY's Earned Income Tax Credit for Working Families and Individuals — A5577/S5573

I look forward to again prioritizing my legislation expanding New York's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITCs have been proven to be one of the most effective economic and social equalizers, lifting millions of Americans and their families out of poverty every year. Under my legislation, New York's EITC would significantly raise the maximum income threshold to include hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers not previously eligible. Decades of research have validated that the federal EITC and its state-level equivalents are some of the most successful poverty-reduction programs that simultaneously encourage individuals to enter and remain in the workforce.



Photo courtesy of the Albany Times Union

Read the op-ed I penned with Senator Breslin in the Albany Times Union this October, where we urged a revitalization of the Harriman State Office Campus as part of the \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Lab upgrade and consolidation project

Make the Holidays sustainable this year!

This Holiday season, keep in mind these helpful tips to keep gift-giving more sustainable. More tips like the ones below from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) can be found at: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8829.html

- Give gifts that encourage others to be more sustainable. Such as a cookbook for leftovers or a re-usable carry-out container.
- Give the gift of experiences. Such as gift certificates to local museums, concerts, restaurants, theaters, etc.
- Make your own gifts: edible gifts such as breads, cookies, cakes, dried fruits, nut mixes, canned goods, jams/jellies, or herbed vinegars make fantastic gifts. Use your arts and crafts skills to knit a scarf, crochet a hat or mittens, paint a watercolor, or design your own jewelry. Make a calendar by using family photos marked with important dates.
- Instead of buying a gift, give your time and talent to your loved ones this year.
- Purchase gifts that are long-lasting or that can be reused and later recycled.
- Look for gifts that don't require batteries. If you must buy a product that needs batteries, buy rechargeable batteries and give them with the gift.
- Bring your own reusable tote bag when shopping.
- Gift bags/baskets are a great wrapping alternative and can be used over and over again. Save clothing boxes, ribbons, bows and wrapping paper to reuse next year.



**Around the District
Grant News, Historic Business
Designations and More**

In addition to my legislative work, I work to induct new historic businesses into the NYS Historic Business Preservation Registry and continue to secure grants that improve our local communities across the 109th District. Below are a few of the highlights this past year.

Jean Paul Salon Inducted into Historic Business Registry

I nominated Jean Paul Salon for New York’s Historic Business Preservation Registry, which is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation and highlights businesses that have been in operation for at least 50 years and have contributed to their community’s history. In 1972, brothers Jean Claude and Paul Simille saw a “For Rent” sign on a building at 181 Central Avenue in Albany. They secured the rental and opened Jean Paul Coiffures. By 1998, Jean Claude was pioneering the day spa movement in the Capital Region and added 4,000 square feet to construct a state-of-the-art wellness center.

Sidewalk Upgrades Complete in Guilderland

I work hard to secure grant funding for local projects like the sidewalk along Carman Road in Guilderland that now connects with Pine Bush Elementary School, allowing safe passage for pedestrians and connecting the northern part of the Town with the school itself. A \$375K Multi-Modal grant I secured was used to create this pedestrian connection along Carman Road between the new roundabout at the intersection of Carman Road and Lydius Street and the Pine Bush Elementary School and will transport students more safely to and from school.

109th District Library Aid

This year, 109th District libraries saw more than \$300,000 in aid secured in the state budget, which I champion each year. The Albany Public Library received more than \$200,000 for physical upgrades at six branches across Albany, and the Voorheesville Public Library received \$72,000 for physical upgrades and conversion of part of the library to serve as a local history room for the community.

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The Holidays can be an especially stressful time for some of us, especially those experiencing loss. Please take the time to care for your own mental health this season: the 988 hotline is available to you as a resource.